

Appl. No. 09/976,516  
Amendment dated September 27, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of August 14, 2006

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### Remarks/Arguments

Claims 2-18, and 20-22 are pending and of these, claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under §102(e) and claims 2-18 and 20 are allowed.

Claims 21-22 have been canceled.

In view of the comments below, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendment thereby canceling claims 21-22 and move the remaining pending claims 2-18 and 20 to allowance.

a) Claims 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ando et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,895,432).

Claims 21-22 have been canceled and thus this rejection of these claims is now moot.

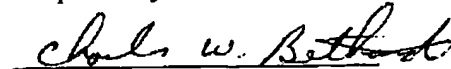
b) Claims 2-18 and 20 have been allowed. Applicant agrees that these claims are allowable over all references of record.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims clearly and patentably distinguish over the cited references of record and as such are to be deemed allowable. A notice of allowance is hereby earnestly and respectfully solicited at an early date.

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Although it is not anticipated that any fees are due or payable given that this Amendment and Response is being timely filed with the 2 months allotted, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-3435.

Respectfully submitted,



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